

Notice of Intent to Repatriate Cultural Items in the Possession of the Nebraska State Historical Society

AGENCY: National Park Service, Interior

ACTION: Notice

Notice is hereby given under the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act of 1990 of the intent to repatriate cultural items in the possession of the Nebraska State Historical Society that meet the definition of "unassociated funerary objects" under section 2 of the Act.

The 31,651 unassociated funerary objects were recovered from fourteen archeological sites located in Butler (25BU1, 25BU4), Hamilton (25HM2), Howard (25HW1, 25HW3, 25HW5), Nance (25NC1, 25NC3, 25NC7, 25NC11, 25NC20), Polk (25PK1), Platte (25PT1), and Webster (25WT1) Counties in east-central Nebraska. Objects include abraders, animal bones, arrow points (metal and stone), beads (glass and shell), bells, bracelets, bridle bits, buttons (glass, metal, and shell), cradle board fragments, coins (American and Spanish), cups, ear bobs, fabric, felt, files, fire steels, flints, glass, gun parts, hide, hoes, knives, leather, matting, medals, metal, a mirror frame, paint, pebbles, pigment, pipes, pottery sherds, projectile points, rings, scrapers, seeds, shells, spoons, spurs, stones, thimbles, vegetal material, whetstones, and wood. All of the objects are believed to have been intentionally placed with or near individual Native American human remains as part of a death rite or ceremony. The individual human remains are not in the possession of the Nebraska State Historical Society either because they were not collected during excavation or because they were previously repatriated by the Nebraska State Historical Society to the Pawnee Tribe of Oklahoma in 1990 and 1991.

The sites represent three cultural phases: Pawnee Phase (1750-1876), Lower Loup Phase (1600-1750), and Itskari Phase (1000-1350). Pawnee Phase sites were identified on the basis of historic written records. Lower Loup Phase sites were identified on the basis of material cultural continuities with Pawnee Phase sites. Itskari Phase sites were identified on the basis of geographical coincidence with Lower Loup and Pawnee Phase sites.

On February 1, 1994, the Nebraska State Historical Society agreed to repatriate the above mentioned unassociated funerary objects to the Pawnee Tribe of Oklahoma. Representatives of any other Indian tribe that believes itself to be culturally affiliated with these objects should contact Gail DeBuse Potter, Museum Curator, Nebraska State Historical Society, P.O. Box 82554, Lincoln NE 68501, telephone: (402) 471-4759, fax: (402) 471-3314, by July 15, 1994. Repatriation of the objects to the Pawnee Tribe of Oklahoma may begin after that date if no additional claimants come forward.

Dated: May 24, 1994

Dr. Francis P. McManamon
Departmental Consulting Archeologist
Chief, Archeological Assistance Division
[FR Doc. 94-13168 Filed 5-27-94; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-70-F

Federal Register / Vol. 59, No. 103 / Tuesday, May 31, 1994 / Notices

28104